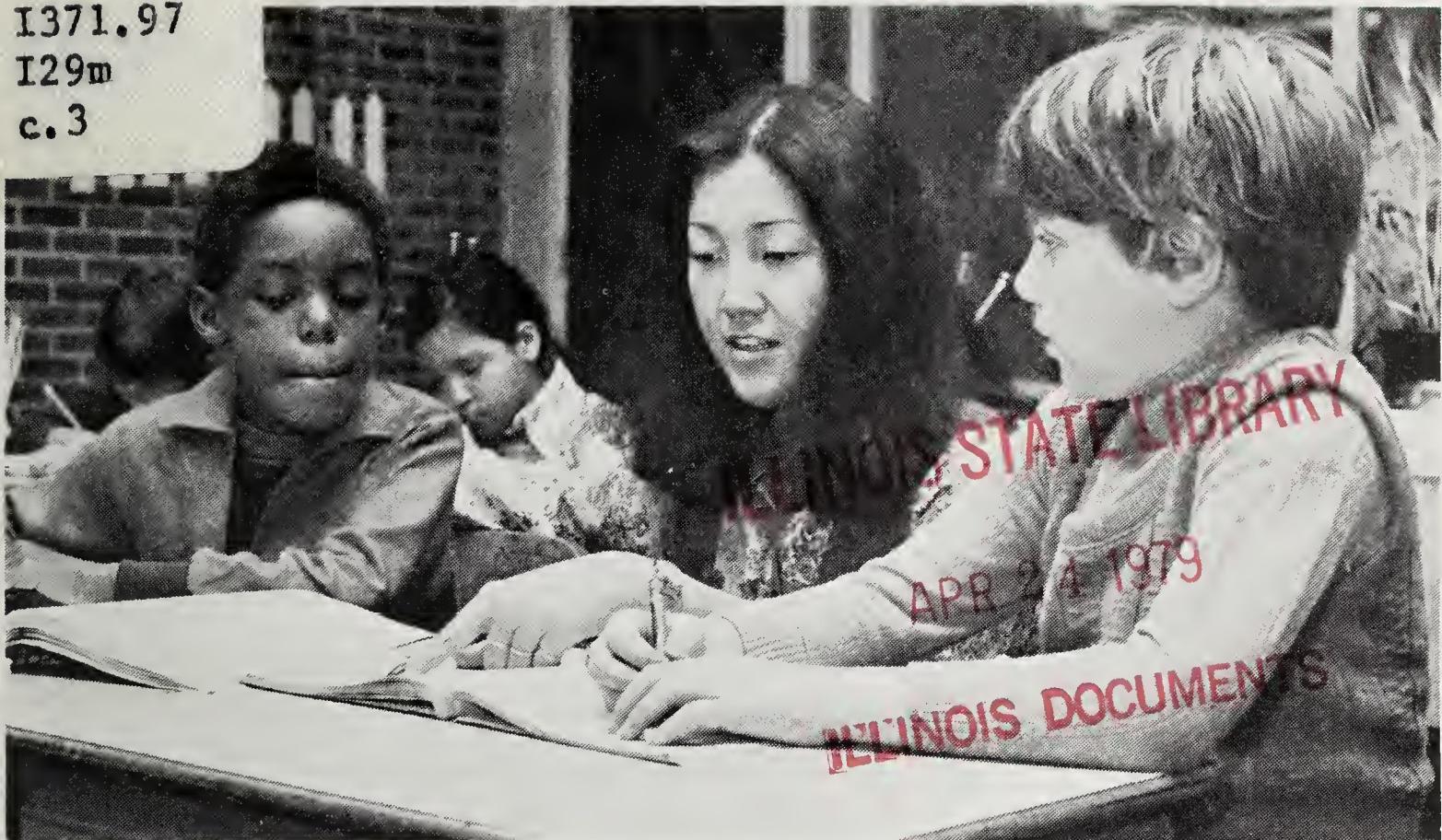


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MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION



Jack Witkowsky, Chairman
State Board of Education

Joseph M. Cronin
State Superintendent of Education

WHAT IS MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION?

A process of learning which utilizes the existing curriculum to:

- * help students understand and appreciate their own identity within a group and society in order to promote pride and improve self-concept.
- * help students recognize cultural diversities as well as commonalities within our culturally pluralistic society.
- * help students recognize the fact that the United States and other countries are multi-racial, multicultural societies.
- * explore past heritage as well as contemporary expressions of shared goals and values.
- * develop more than a "contribution" approach to history as it gets to the heart of "peoplehood."

WHY HAVE MULTICULTURAL STUDIES IN THE CURRICULUM?

One of the significant developments in America in recent years has been the renaissance of interest in cultural variance and pluralism as an outgrowth of ethnic identity. Amidst repeated and important calls for national unity, it is becoming more evident that such unity is built upon different cultural experiences and historical backgrounds.

While the "Melting Pot" never really implied the disappearance of all traces of cultural identity our education system is rapidly recognizing the importance of a multicultural, pluralistic approach to teaching about America, past and present.

The Illinois School Code, Section 27-21, which has mandated the teaching of multicultural and ethnic heritage, reads in part:

The teaching of history shall include a study of the role and contributions of American Negroes and other ethnic groups, including but not restricted to Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian, Irish, Bohemian, Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czechoslovakian, French,

*Scots, etc., in the history of this country
and this State.*

In order to help school districts implement this mandate, the Urban and Ethnic Education Section has developed resource, liaison, and facilitating functions for school districts, community, and other sections of the Illinois Office of Education.

WHAT SERVICE DOES THE URBAN AND ETHNIC EDUCATION SECTION PROVIDE?

- *Inservice training for administrators and teachers on implementing multicultural studies into the curriculum.
- *Identification, research, assessment and dissemination of information and material regarding state and national multicultural studies and programs.
- *Assistance in the planning and presentation of workshops and conferences to inform educators and assist in implementing the School Code regarding the teaching of the role and contributions of ethnics/minorities in the curriculum.
- *Dissemination and implementation of "Guidelines for the Evaluation and Selection of Ethnically Valid Instructional Materials."

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A Statewide Multicultural Advisory Council serves in the capacity of offering suggestions and recommendations to multicultural services in education.

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WHAT MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE?

- *Guidelines for the Evaluation and Selection of Ethnically Valid Instructional Materials
- *Ethnic Resource Guide
- *Integrating Black Studies into Existing Social Studies Curriculum

- *Recognizing Sex Bias: Manual for Recognizing Sex Bias in Instructional Materials and Administrative Procedures
- *A Guide to Resource Persons in Ethnic Studies in Illinois
- *Entry into the United States
- *Inter-ethnic Music
- *Inter-ethnic Celebrations
- *Directory of Organizations Involved in Education in the Chicago Metropolitan Area
- *An Annotated Bibliography of Multi-ethnic Educational Materials
- *Ten Steps for Shared Roles in Multicultural Curriculum Development
- *School and Community: Partners in Problem Solving

Contact:

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WHAT IS ETHNICITY?

Ethnicity means peoplehood, a sense of commonality or community derived from networks of family relations which have over a number of generations been the carriers of common experiences.

Ethnicity, in short, means the culture of people and is thus critical for values, attitudes, perceptions, needs, mode of expression, behavior and identity.

Otto Feinstein

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